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Israel's Contributions to a Cleaner World

In an era of booming populations, shrinking resources, and environmental degradation, Israel leads the world in critical fields such as solar power generation and seawater desalination. As nations struggle to make the best use of their resources, Israel's cutting-edge technologies promise to improve health and living standards for hundreds of millions across the globe, while making industry more efficient and minimizing the environmental impact of human activities.

- Last year, Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) contracted with an Israeli company, Solel, to build in California's Mojave Desert the world's largest solar energy park. When completed in 2011, the huge site will have a capacity of 553 megawatts—enough electricity for 400,000 homes.
- The Mojave desert's Solar Energy Generating Systems (SEGS)—engineered by Israelis in the 1980s and now run with help from Solel—is currently the world's largest and most productive solar array, with a capacity of 354 megawatts. Aside from its size, it is also notable for being the longest continuously operating, commercially successful solar array in the U.S.
- The total output of the above facilities equals that of a coal-fired power plant burning around three million tons of coal annually, or an oil-fired plant burning over ten million barrels of oil annually. Such efforts provide concrete support for America's pursuit of emissions reductions and energy independence.
- Also in the “world's largest” category is the seawater reverse osmosis desalination plant in Israel's southern city of Ashkelon. The plant came online in 2005. It can produce up to 320,000 cubic meters of fresh water daily, or around five percent of Israel's total water needs. Given that Israel is 60 percent desert and also one of the world's most densely populated countries, desalination over time will become a necessity of life.
- Israel's success has attracted attention from many developing countries. For example, China has selected IDE Technologies, an Israeli contractor that participated in the Ashkelon project, to build China's largest desalination plant. IDE Technologies has built or delivered more than 360 desalination plants around the world, with a total production capacity of over one million cubic meters per day.
- Israeli companies also lead in revolutionary technologies for water purification, wastewater treatment, and water quality monitoring. Israeli products are being used by municipal water treatment plants and other facilities throughout the U.S.

Additional Resources:

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